POLREP #2
SOPHIA BATTERY DUMP SITE
INTERSECTION OF RUBLE STREET AND WEST RAILROAD AVENUE
SOPHIA, RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
EVENT: WINDSHIELD ASSESSMENT
ATTN: RRC, CHARLIE KLEEMAN

I. SITUATION (0800 HOURS, FRIDAY, 28 JULY 2000)

A. On 27 January 1998, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) responded to a complaint from an employee of Sophia Water Department. During excavation of a water line on West Railroad Avenue, the water department discovered plastic battery cases buried in the ground up to a depth of six feet. WVDEP contacted the property owner, [redacted], and obtained permission to collect samples from the property.

B. WVDEP collected a soil sample from the excavation pit and sent it for total lead and Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) analysis. A tap water sample was also collected from a nearby resident.

C. The results from sample collection revealed that the soil sample contained 3.7 parts per million (ppm) TCLP and total lead of 1,120 ppm. The tap water, which was found to contain 1.6 ppm lead, exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.015 ppm for drinking water. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDOH) issued a water advisory in the area.

D. As a result, the neighborhood water lines were flushed repeatedly. Following additional sampling and verification that the lead content in the water was below the MCL, the water advisory was lifted by WVDOH.

E. On 11 February 1998, WVDEP personnel conducted a preliminary assessment at the site and collected samples from the excavated pit, the embankment beneath a section of the building on site, and from a battery storage area at the north end of West Railroad Avenue. The analytical results showed that the soils contained lead up to 7,900 ppm and TCLP lead up to 130 ppm.

F. On 8 July 1998, WVDEP Tom Blake requested EPA assistance to perform an emergency removal assessment. EPA tasked SATA to conduct a windshield assessment.

G. On 22 September 1998, OSCs Downie and Easton, accompanied by SATA, met with WVDEP Blake and conducted the windshield assessment. The site consisted of several small wooden buildings, formerly the ABD battery recycle company. The small wooden buildings hung over an embankment, which leveled off to a flat area, then descended down to the Norfolk and Western railroad tracks and an unnamed tributary to Soak Creek. According to [redacted], a resident at [redacted] West Railroad Avenue, the facility was no longer in operation. Several residences were located across the street from the site.

H. SATA observed battery casings at four distinct locations: adjacent to the stairs leading down the embankment, adjacent to the north end of the site, adjacent to the wooden recycling buildings, and in the embankment beneath the edge of the buildings. No lead pieces were observed. SATA constructed a sketch of these

locations and documented the areas of concern.

I. EPA, WVDEP, and SATA discussed contaminant levels in the water with [redacted]. WVDEP did not recall any residents reporting levels of lead above the MCL in their water, but [redacted] claims that he had continued high levels of lead in his water.

J. SATA researched the location and ownership of the water, sewer, gas, telephone, and electrical utilities at the Sophia Town Hall. SATA obtained maps of all utility locations. Under direction of OSC Easton, SATA met with the town mayor, Daniel Barr. Mr. Barr assisted SATA in obtaining the utility contacts.

K. On 23 September 1998, SATA researched deed and PRP information, sampling data, and original reports at the Charleston WVDEP Office of Waste Management. SATA obtained copies of all pertinent information.

L. On 12 July 2000, OSC Kelly was directed to investigate the site. OSC Kelly directed START to accompany him during a windshield assessment on 23 July 2000.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN: (Monday, 23 July 2000)

A. OSC Kelly and START mobilized to the site and investigated current site conditions. The OSC and START observed that there were holes in the roof of the recycling facility, which would allow water to infiltrate into the building, collect possible contamination, and transport it into the ground water and subsequently into the tributary of Soak Creek. Battery casings could be observed in the site soils from the railroad tracks adjacent to the site and from the roadside. The OSC and START observed two separate runoff streams emerging from the hillside located along the embankment of the site. These runoff streams entered the tributary of Soak Creek at locations adjacent to the railroad tracks. The OSC and START traced the path of this unnamed tributary, visiting residences along the way and confirming the path of the waterway.

B. OSC Kelly spoke to the water department in Sophia and confirmed that this waterway leads into Soak Creek and subsequently into the Ohio River.

C. OSC Kelly attempted to contact the property owner, [redacted], and request access to the property for a sampling event. [redacted] was not available.

D. OSC Kelly directed START to procure laboratory services and prepare for a sampling event the week of 14 August 2000.

III. FUTURE ACTIONS:

A. OSC Kelly to continue coordination with WVDEP, local, and state officials.

B. OSC Kelly to obtain access to the property from [redacted] for the sampling event.

C. START to draft a sampling plan for collection of water, sediment, and soil samples. START to provide the plan to the OSC for review.

D. START to procure laboratory services for Target Analyte List (TAL) Metals analysis.

E. START to conduct a sampling assessment the week of 14 August 2000.

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